



Enclosure 2



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**Your Reference:** NJO / P020401GB  
**Application No:** GB 0325049.5

16 March 2004

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977:**  
**Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)**

**Latest date for reply:** 27 October 2005

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

#### **Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **22 March 2005**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

#### **Withdrawal/amendment**

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

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<sup>†</sup>**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 22 March 2005 please mark your letter prominently:

**“URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT”.**

Yours faithfully

Gareth Jones  
Examiner

**Important information about combined search and examination**

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could prominently indicate in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.